

1 THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR
2 PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS

3 1. A stent having a generally tubular body with a plurality of circumferentially spaced
4 longitudinal struts extending parallel to a longitudinal axis of said body, circumferentially
5 adjacent pairs of said struts being interconnected solely by (a set) of linkages axially spaced from
6 one another and defining a predetermined space between adjacent pairs of said struts, each of
7 said linkages having a plurality of links angularly disposed relative to one another in an
8 unexpanded condition such that when a radial force is exerted on said tubular body, relative
9 rotation between adjacent links and plastic deformation occurs, thereby increasing said space
10 between said adjacent pairs of said struts and permitting radial expansion of said stent, said struts
11 inhibiting relative axial movement between said linkages and foreshortening of said body, each
12 of said linkages having hinge points spaced apart along said linkage, said hinge points deforming
13 upon radial expansion of said stent to facilitate relative rotation of said links, wherein said hinge
14 points are provided by zones of relative weakness along said links.

15 2. A stent according to claim 1 wherein said zones of relative weakness are provided by a
16 reduced cross-sectional area.